LE BULLETIN
l'Institut Simone de Beauvoir Institute
NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, No. 2
May/mai 1980
Université Concordia/
Concordia University
Montreal, Quebec

WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSES - SUMMER 1980

EDUCATION C390/1 CURRENT ISSUES IN EDUCATION (3 credits)
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 18:05-20:10: May 10 to June 12
Sir George Williams Campus
Professor: T.B.A.

RELIGION C333/1 WOMEN AND RELIGION I (3 credits)
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 20:25-22:30: May 12 to June 10
Sir George Williams Campus
Professor: Monique Dumais

RELIGION C334/1 WOMEN AND RELIGION II (3 credits)
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 20:25-22:30: June 16 to July 17
Sir George Williams Campus
Professor: Norma Joseph

ENGLISH C251/1 SELECTED TOPICS IN LITERATURE WRITTEN BY WOMEN I (3 credits)
Special Topic: Canadian Women: Bush and Salon
Monday to Friday 14:00-16:45: July 2 to July 22
Sir George Williams Campus
Professor: Patricia Morley

ENGLISH C252/1 SELECTED TOPICS IN LITERATURE WRITTEN BY WOMEN II (3 credits)
Special Topic: Contemporary Canadian Novelists
Monday to Friday 14:00-16:45: July 23 to August 12
Sir George Williams Campus
Professor: Patricia Morley

FRANCAIS C493/1 ETUDE AVANCEE D'UN SUJET PARTICULIER (6 crédits)
Sujet Particulier: Marie-Claire Blais
lundi à vendredi 14h00-16h45: 2 juillet au 12 août
Campus Loyola
Professeur: à annoncer

For registration information for these courses, please contact the individual departments.

For general information on the Women's Studies Program, please contact:
Women's Studies Coordinator, Concordia University
1455 de Maisonneuve West, Montreal, P.Q. H3G 1M8
Tel: (514) 879-8521

SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR INSTITUTE TO HOST WOMEN'S STUDIES CONFERENCE

TALKING TOGETHER/PARLONS-EN! ..... CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ..... JUNE 1-2, 1980

The date of this first conference to be hosted by the Institute was chosen to coincide with the 1980 meetings of the Learned Societies at the University of Quebec at Montreal. This national conference is expected to help the Institute prepare for an international Women's Conference in 1982, in conjunction with UNESCO.

PROGRAMME (provisional)

JUNE 1, 1980

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.- Registration: Hall Building, 1455 de Maisonneuve W., Room H-110

7:00 to 7:45 p.m.- Keynote Speakers: Senator Yvette Rousseau and Maria Campbell, writer. Room H-110

8:00 to 9:30 p.m.- Reception: West side, Cafeteria, 7th Floor, Hall Building

JUNE 2, 1980

9:00 a.m., H-110 - WORKING TOWARDS EQUALITY?
Moderator: Prof. Gail Valaskakis, Communication Studies, Concordia University
Panelists: Dr. Alison Prentice, History, OISE
Dr. Donna Smyth, English, Acadia University
Ms. Maxine Gough, Educator, President of Black Professional Women's Group, Dartmouth, N.S.

10:45 a.m., H-110- Workshop: TOWARDS A METHODOLOGY FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES
Moderator: Dr. Lorraine McMullen, English, University of Ottawa
Panelists: Marion Colby, Women's Advisor, Centennial College
Dr. Lorna Marsden, Chairperson, Sociology, University of Toronto
Prof. Shelagh Wilkinson, Editor CWS/cf, Women's Studies, Centennial College

2:15 p.m., H-110 - Bilingual Session: CROSSING BORDERS
Moderator: Dr. Lynn McDonald, President, National Committee on Status of Women
Panelists: Dr. Heather Lyson, Education Foundation, University of Alberta
Jeanne Lapointe, Faculté des Lettres, Université Laval
Margret Andersen, Département d'études françaises, University of Guelph

5:00 to 6:00 p.m.- Bernice Lever, poet, will read from her work Reading from Singing: An Anthology of Writing from Women in Canadian Prisons. D.B. Clarke Theatre, Hall Building

8:30 p.m. - Film. D.B.Clarke Theatre, Hall Building

Advance Registration: Please send registration fee of $10 (students, $5) to:

Professor Patricia Morley, Conference Co-ordinator
Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University
2170 Bishop St., Montreal, Quebec H3G 2E9

TALKING TOGETHER/PARLONS-EN! ..... UNIVERSITE CONCORDIA .... LES 1er et 2 JUIN, 1980

Ce premier colloque national à être marrainé par l'Institut coincide avec le congrès annuel des Sociétés savantes qui a lieu cette année à l'Université du Québec à Montréal. Nous espérons que l'expérience ainsi acquise nous aidera dans la préparation d'un éventuel colloque international sur les études de la femme qui pourrait être organisé en 1982 en collaboration avec l'UNESCO.

PROGRAMME (provisoire)

1er JUIN, 1980

17h00 à 19h00 - Inscription: Pavillon Hall, 1455 de Maisonneuve O., Salle H-110

19h00 à 19h45 - Invitées d'honneur: Mad. Yvette Rousseau, sénatrice, et Maria Campbell, écrivaine. Salle H-110

20h00 à 21h30 - Réception: Coté gauche, Caféteria, Pavillon Hall, 7ème étage

2 JUIN, 1980

9h00, H-435 - VERS L'EGALITE?
Animatrice: Lucie Pépin, Vice-Présidente, Commission Consultative du Statut de la Femme, Ottawa
Intervenantes: Madeleine Leblanc, Présidente, Commission Consultative du Statut de la Femme, Nouveau-Brunswick
Claire Bonenfant, Présidente, Conseil du Statut de la Femme, Québec
Monique Dumais, Département des Sciences Religieuses, l'UQAM

10h45, H-435 - Atelier: PAROLES DE FEMME
Animatrice: Cécile Cloutier, Département d'études françaises, University of Toronto
Intervenantes: Jacquesline Lamothe, Département de linguistique, l'UQAM
Louise Forsyth, Département d'études françaises, University of Western Ontario
Nicole Brossard, Ecrivaine

2h15, H-110 - Séance bilingue: AU-DELA DES FRONTIERES
Animatrice: Lynn McDonald, Présidente, Comité national d'action sur le Statut de la Femme
Intervenantes: Heather Lyson, Education Foundation, University of Alberta
Jeanne Lapointe, Faculté des Lettres, Université Laval
Margret Andersen, Département d'études françaises, University of Guelph

17h00 à 18h00 - Bernice Lever, poétesse, lira de son oeuvre, Reading from Singing: An Anthology of Writing from Women in Canadian Prisons. Théatre D.B. Clarke, Pavillon Hall

20h30 - Film. Théatre D.B. Clarke, Pavillon Hall

Inscription: Veuillez envoyer les droits d'inscription ($10, étudiant/e/s $5) à:

Professeur Patricia Morley
Coordinatrice du colloque
Institut Simone de Beauvoir
Université Concordia
2170, rue Bishop
Montréal (Québec) H3G 2E9

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Simone de Beauvoir Institute:

CREATIVE WRITING, SUPPORT, AND CRITICISM WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN - led by Susan Zimmerman, poet, critic, and former professor of English at University of Toronto and Simon Fraser. Wednesdays, May 14 to June 16, from 7-9 p.m. (subject to arrangement with workshop members). Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Loyola Campus, 7079 Terrebonne Avenue. To register, come to the first session on May 14. Cost: $5 for 6 sessions.

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UQAM:

WOMEN UNDER APARTHEID - conference sponsored by La Ligue des Femmes du Québec and the U.N. May 9, 10, and 11. Registration: Friday, May 9, 6-7 p.m., and Saturday morning. UQAM, Pavillon Judith Jasmin, 1455 St. Denis.

Information: Laurette Chrétien-Sloan, 845-3796

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Creative Aggression for Women:

Saturdays, May 24 and June 14, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Led by Miriam Bercovitz. At monthly Saturday workshops, small groups of women work together to acknowledge and explore attitudes to aggression. This also involves them in a reassessment of their role in society. Cost: $30.00 per workshop.

Information: Miriam Bercovitz, 481-2826

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Women's Information and Referral Centre/Centre d'Information et de Référence pour Femmes:

L'édition de 1980 des Pages jaunes des femmes de Montréal est maintenant prête. C'est un recueil unique en son genre des ressources, des services, et des organismes de Montréal. Prix: Si vous venez le chercher au CIRF, $4.00 l'exemplaire pour les particuliers, $6.00 pour les institutions; commandes postales, $1.00 de frais supplémentaires par exemplaire. CIRF, 3585, rue St-Urbain, Montréal. Tél. 842-4781.

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Département d'études françaises, Université Concordia:

The department will be opening up two new sections of FRAN C301 entitled L'Art de vivre au Québec au Féminin beginning in the Fall 1980-81 semester. Offered at the joint request of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute and the Women's Studies Programme, these sections (FRAN C301/2 B and FRAN C301/4 C) will give students an opportunity to learn about the situation of women in Québec and current women's activities. The course, which lasts one semester and will be offered in both the fall and winter semesters on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:15 to 4:00 p.m., carries 6 credits upon successful completion.

Information: 879-5881

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THE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute is now approaching the end of its second year of operation. In many ways, thses first years have been difficult. Perhaps, with the enthusiasm of novices, we attempted originally to be too all-encompassing. Certainly we had not envisaged the strains that would be placed on the faculty nor the confusion and possible disappointment that would in some cases follow from the varying expectations that had been aroused.

In most universities, women constitute a small percentage of the full-time faculty, and this percentage is not likely to increase significantly in a time of declining enrolments and general budgetary restraints. Simultaneously, universities, conscious of the need to involve women more and more in the decision-making processes, are nominating or electing them to more and more departmental, faculty and university-wide committees. Women tend then, unless they refuse these opportunities (and the risks have to be weighed), to be more overburdened than their male colleagues. If, to boot, they are also involved in the teaching and administration of inter/multi/pluri/ disciplinary programmes, as is normally the case with Women's Studies, the burden is correspondingly increased. Concordia University is no exception to that rule.

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute has, of course, posed an added problem. Because it is not involved in the administration of the Women's Studies Programme, its vocation has been essentially of a co-curricular nature. And indeed, many interesting and useful workshops have been organized, guest lectures hosted, etc. A list of these can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter. Nevertheless, the Tutors, most of whom are either instructors in Women's Studies or engaged in related research, and who, on the whole, receive no course remission, no stipend, no recognition for their activity, are being pulled in too many directions at once. Involved minimally in three separate operations (department, Women's Studies, the Institute). expected to assume administrative tasks in all three as well as meet the previously mentioned faculty and university-wide obligations, they must also give evidence of research successfully pursued, etc.

The tasks are awesome in quantity as well as in quality. Most Tutors are aware of their inability to continue in this fashion and are conscious of the need to define more clearly the relationship between their various commitments.

These are, of course, not the only problems that have confronted an organization still going through its birth-pangs. Not the least of them is the question of relationship between our internal organization and that of the University itself. Options are open to volunteer external groups that are not always open to those who function within, are funded by, and responsible to an academic institution. Here too clearer definitions of possible avenues and arrangements are needed.

It has then become apparent, to many faculty, staff and students, that a thorough reappraisal has become necessary. The umbrella-type organization of our beginnings has proved to be beyond our means. There are certain activities we can carry out and can carry out well. Others are best left to those whose commitment lies in that direction, whatever it may be. There

are indeed many mansions, and they can co-exist, even seed each other. Therein must lie the strength of the many organizations, formal or informal, devoted each in its own way to the advancement of women. What one cannot provide, another can, and we must learn to accept and welcome that as proof of the richness and diversity of the many threads that make up our existence, all of which contribute to that overall pattern of human and social change we strive to create. No thread is less important than another in the total weave. But it is important that each thread be as strong as possible.

As the evaluation of the Institute by the Learning Development office of Concordia University continues, with a view to helping establish our areas of strength, so the Tutors are pursuing a reappraisal of how they can best contribute in their sector of the total struggle for the promotion of women in a new society. As part of a university, we recognize the need, not merely to avoid the dispersion to which we have been subject, but also to emphasize the importance that must attach in our environment to the academic goals of teaching and research, albeit transformed in a feminist perspective.

At the same time, we wish to recognize the significance of our co-curricular activities and the relationship that must exist between the three areas. Above all, we must find new creative ways of involving all sectors of the university (students, faculty, professional staff, support staff) in our common pursuit.

So now we look ahead and even forward to the next round of growing pains. We have busy months before us.

Mair Verthy
PRINCIPAL, SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR INSTITUTE

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THE READING ROOM, AN ONGOING PROJECT

The Reading Room of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute will likely be of particular interest to students who are taking courses this summer. So far, many students have made use of the services and resources available at the Reading Room, and Joan M. Kohner, the documentalist, reports that the number of telephone enquiries has been growing.

The Reading Room provides access to books about a variety of subjects, including religion, black women, sexism and the psychology and history of the women's movement as well as to novels written by women or of particular interest to women. Forty-five titles have recently been added to the collection.

The Reading Room also provides about forty periodicals ranging from scholarly journals such as Atlantis, Signs, and Resources for Feminist Research to information bulletins from the F.F.Q. and Centre d'Information et de Reférence pour Femmes and lively news of activities from across the country in Northern Woman Journal or Vancouver Status of Women's Kinesis. Plans are to obtain a large quantity of Canadian material and to extend holdings in French, an area in which the Reading Room is weak at the moment. A number of useful studies in both French and English are available from the Provincial and Federal Governments, however. The Reading Room has recently received Women and Poverty/La Femme et la Pauvreté from the National

Council of Welfare, and Five Million Women: A Study of the Canadian Housewife/ Cinq Millions de Femmes from the Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

A circulation policy has recently been established and students are welcome to borrow monographs and government documents and to photocopy periodicals. Ms. Kohner notes that Reading Room staff can often help students, especially with bibliographies.

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TV POSSIBILITIES: TV SERIES TO BE PRODUCED BY THE INSTITUTE

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute plans to produce a series of video tapes dealing with questions pertaining to feminism. The primary purpose of this series will be to show viewers that there are not only a vast number of issues, but also many ways of approaching feminism. In effect, we would hope to demystify feminism, while at the same time inform and entertain our viewers.

The format of the shows would be informal discussion with four participants and one moderator/anchorwoman. Each show would revolve around one question. After discussion by the panel, there would be some questions from the studio audience. The duration of each program would normally be thirty minutes. The first series would be in Ebglish with a possible repeat series in French. Efforts will be made to sell this series to an educational television network.

Suggested themes for programmes are "Are women really all witches?", "What's Wrong with Romantic Love?", "Can one be a Feminist and a Christian?", "Whatever Happened to the Amazons?", "Must a Woman go Out to Work?", "Can a Man be a Feminist?", "Do all Religions Support Male Supremacy?", "Must my Daughter play Football?", "Why are there no Great Women Composers?", "What do you mean, Language is Sexist", "Is a Woman only a Woman After she has had a Baby?", "Could you really work for a Woman?", "Why can't a Woman be more like a Man?"

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CARRY-OVERS--WORKSHOPS TO BE CONTINUED IN 80-81

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute's "Money Wisdom for Woman" workshop, was held on Mondays from February 11 to March 17, 1980. The six-week workshop was led by Amanda Goodwin, underwriter for the Imperial Life Insurance Company. Goodwin's objective is to heighten participant's awareness of their capability and competence in financial matters, and to help women acquire the confidence and knowledge necessary to attain and maintain financial security. To this end, she uses a highly participatory approach, leading participants out of bad habits and attitudes through exercises designed to help each individual define, understand, and finally take charge of her real financial situation.

Goodwin's approach, her emphasis on realistic goals for the future, and the participant's highly motivated response guarantee that "Money Wisdom for Women" will be of lasting benefit to those involved in it.

This workshop will be repeated in the fall semester (80-81) if enough people express an interest.

In January, a group of student members asked the Institute for support in setting up a creative writing workshop. They were encouraged in this venture by Professor Rytsa Tobias. Regular meetings have begun to take place and the Institute's facilities have been made available. The students prefer to organize the workshop themselves and will call upon the Institute for help with resource persons as and when the need is felt.

A short term therapy group for students suffering from problems associated with a lack of self-esteem was recently held through The Simone de Beauvoir Institute. The group format is partly structured and partly unstructured. It is led by both a female and a male counsellor to provide appropriate models, and deals with problems students encounter in both the university setting and their personal lives as a result of their feelings of low self-esteem.

The group is made up of nine students (seven is an ideal size for this type of group). Plans for this group include six to eight one and one-half hour sessions (Mondays from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.).

It should be noted that an additional 25-30 students responded to the ad which was run in the Thursday Report regarding this group. Because of the small group size and because many called after the group had been closed, it was not possible to accomodate these applicants.

Demystifying Mathematics for Women

This 8 week course is offered to women who fear mathematics in order to help them gain self-confidence in the subject.

The clientele is composed of the following;

1. Concordia Staff (or women working in private enterprise) who must do calculations in their job and who panic when dealing with numbers.

2. Concordia students or students from other Montreal universities who have avoided mathematics and who must take math courses, such as statistics in order to complete their degree.

3. Women who are planning a career requiring the knowledge of some math.

In all cases, this course helps them in pursuing their goals, either for promotion in management or further study.

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HIGHLIGHTS: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In September and October, Workshops for Mature Women Students were organized by Rytsa Tobias at Sir George Williams and by Mary Vipond and Maureen Dechene at Loyola. The two five-week workshops were designed for women students officially designated by the University as "mature", i.e. over 21 or 25 and taking pre-university credits.

The groups met once a week for 5 weeks in the afternoon at Loyola, and in the evening at Sir George Williams, and examined such topics as how to study, take notes, write essays and exams, how to use the library and how to deal with the University's administration, and how to benefit from the various academic and non-academic

services available at Concordia.

On October 16, 1979, Helene Cixous, noted French writer and literary theoretician, presented a series of three lectures in Montreal, one at the Institute, one at the Université de Montreal's Département d'Etudes Françaises, and one at UQUAM for the Groupe d'Intervention et de Recherche sur les Femmes.

Later in October, Rosemary Haughton gave a well-attended talk in the main lounge about women's rights within the Church. Ms. Haughton's effective yet informal talk was followed by a dialogue with the audience which focused on the concept of androgeneity in personhood.

From late October to early March, the Institute held six Dialogues in Depth. Topics ranged from "Feminism and Human Liberation: The Double Axe or the Two-edged Sword?" to "Feminine Humour: Women Delivering the Word."

On November 3, 1979, the Institute joined Voice of Women in presenting Edith Ballentyne, Secretary General of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Chairperson of the Non-Governmental Organizations to the United Nations, who lectured about the Internaltional Decade for Women.

Throughout November, four workshops on the genral topic of "Women and Their Bodies" were held. Their purpose was to acquaint women with current knowledge and research trends on the health and behavioural effects of hormones, contraceptives and women's sexuality. The four sessions, conducted once a week, were coordinated by Elizabeth Henrik and Dolores Gold. Guest speakers included Dr. Diane Isherwood, who discussed controversies related to female sex hormones, Dr. Charlene Berger on contraceptive behaviour, Psychologist Heidi Markovitz on behaviourhal rhythms related to the menstrual cycle, and Dr. William Bender on aspects of female sexuality.

On November 19, Dr. Mary O'Brien, sociologist from O.I.S.E. and political theoretician gave a talk entitled, "The Second Sex: A Re-evaluation". Dr. O'Brien, who recently finished a book on marxist perspectives of women, discussed de Beauvoir's views on the relationship between women and nature. Because Dr. O'Brien was a nurse for many years before returning to University study, she is particularly interested in present and future orientations concerning women and reproduction. In the discussion period which followed the lecture, many members of the audience discussed de Beauvoir's views on these issures, and the extent to which these are still relevant in light of recent developments in medical technology.

On November 20, the Institute and Communications Studies Guild co-sponsored an informal talk by Donna Cockerton on Women in the Media. Ms. Cockerton id s former Concordia Communications Studies student and presently produces a talk show for CFCF-12. Subjects discussed included the place of women in television production, the ways in which women can prepare themselves for a career in television, and the relationship of academic education to practical training.

At the invitation of the Institute, journalist and author Penney Kome spoke on "Housework: Somebody Has To Do It" on January 10 in Loyola's Vanier Auditorium.

Kome's hard look at housework, the largest unpaid "service industry" in the world, was based on a survey conducted through her column in Homemaker Magazine. Kome is presently compiling her survey information in a book to be published this fall.

Although the majority of women surveyed regard housework as "something that comes with the territory", Kome argued against the "myth" that housework is not work.

A panel discussion entitled, "Women and Violence in the Family" was held at Loyola on February 14. Participating on the panel were Ms. Anne Usher from the Conseil du Statut de la Femme and Prof. Kwok Chan of the Department of Applied Social Science here at Concordia.

Ms. Usher has done extensive research on the status of women in general as well as on the role of violence in family situations, and was able to correlate the incidence of violence in the family with the treatment of it by law enforcing agenicies. An interesting development is that female police officers seem to have a greater success at intervention in family problems than do their male counterparts.

Prof. Kwok Chan spoke of the many women he had encountered in his research and field work who had experienced repeated acts of violence directed at them by their male partners or by a succession of male partners.

In February, two evenings of films by women were presented by the Institute. On February14, D'Abord Ménagères was screened at Sir George Williams. This noteworthy film was produced by the well-known Quebec actress and movie-maker Luce Guilbeault. On February 21st, three films made for the National Film Board by American Indian performer Alanis Obomsawin were presented. Ms. Obomsawin introduced the three films herself. They were entitled, "Amisk", "Christmas at Moose Factory" and "Mother of Many Children."

From February 2nd to March 13th, a series of twelve lunch-time projections of videos by and about women was organized by Professor Michel Euvrard of the French Department in conjunction with Vidéo-Femmes de Québec. Each video was shown once on the Loyola Campus and once on the Sir George Williams Campus. In each case, the projection was followed by a discussion.

On March 15, the Modes of Feminism series continued with a one-day discussion and workshops on "Women in Politics." The main speakers were Muriel Duckworth, President of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, and Senator Thérèse Casgrain, O.B.E., and companion of the Order of Canada.

The five workshops dealt with the topics, "Routes to a Political Career: Initiative or Invitation?" with Celine Hervieux-Payette, M.P.; "Grass-Root political organizations: limits to voluntarism" with Dorothy Reitman, Past President of the Council for Jewish Women; "The Non-francophone woman in Quebec politics: end or beginning?" with Patricia Rustad, President, Montreal Council of Women; "Women and the Law: enforcing equality" with Ghislaine Patry-Buisson of the Human Rights Commission; and "Rights for the Aging" with Dr. Agatha Suhasz.

Claudette Branchard

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THE UNESCO REPORT OF WOMEN'S STUDIES IN CANADA

In February of this year, we at the Institute, were asked by UNESCO to present a report on Women 's Studies in Canadian universities and community colleges. With

less than a month in which to obtain and compile the information, this was a difficult task, but a team of Institute members set to work, and the conclusions, although incomplete, are interesting.

What our necessarily cursory survey revealed is that, while there has been considerable development in Women's Studies over the last ten years, especially in Sociology, History and Psychology, many institutions still offer no courses in this field and others offer courses but no programmes (Major, Minor, etc.) Although both enrolment and the number of courses are frequently either stable or increasing, the number of courses depends to a large extent on the availabiltiy of a full-time tenured faculty already teaching in established disciplines. In the case of illness, sabbatical or retirement, little or no effort at replacement is made. Budgetary restraints are cited as a major problem and one which severely constricts development and expansion. It is significant to note that, in most cases, the budgetary cuts affecting all areas in universities came just when Women's Studies programmes were beginning to be recognized as academically credible.

The vast majority of Women's Studies courses in Canada are integrated into departments and are not separate programmes. Although this arrangement does not meet with wholhearted approval, there is general agreement that this mainstream status adds to the credibility and viability of the courses and keeps the instructors in touch with other developments in their disciplines. It does mean, however, that courses are dependent on departmental goodwill and that students often find it difficult to specialize in Women's Studies.

We also discovered that neither individual institutions nor provincial Ministries of Departments of Education can offer remotely accurate information concerning theses being written or research projects being carried out in Women's Studies, or, presumably, in other disciplines. The AUCC produces regular descriptive inventories of courses, as OISE does in certain specialized areas, but they, as we must, rely on individual willingness to fill out questionnaires. We were able, nevertheless, to include with our statement the following documents which may be of interest to others:

Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada - Status of Women in Canadian Universities, 1975; Second Report of the Committees on the Status of Women in Universities, 1977.

Learning Opportunities for Women: An Impressionistic Overview by Janet Willis, Co-ordinator, Canadian Committee on Learning Opportunities for Women, August 1977.

Part of survey of Teaching and Research on Women at McGill by Margaret Gillett, Professor of Education, December 1976.

British Columbia Ministry of Education - Discussion Paper 02/79: A Report on Non-Traditional Learning Programs for Women at B.C. Post-Secondary Institutions.

"Courses on Canadian Women's History." Resources for Feminist Research VII, no. 2, July 1979.

Programme Information Directory: Educational Programmes for Women in Canada by Janet Willis, Co-ordinator, Canadian Committee on Learning Opportunities for Women, 1978.

Learning Opportunities for Women in Canada: Perceptions of Educators by Janet Willis, Co-ordinator, Canadian Committee on Learning Opportunities for Women, 1978.

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BACKGROUND: WOMEN AND SPORT

Whenever agitation for the improvement of women's lot has surfaced, so has interest in physical training, sport, and game participation for women. P.F. Lesgraft, in Sobranie Pedagogicheskikh Sochinenii 3, (Moscow, 1956), reports that the father of modern physical education in the Soviet Union in 1877 envisioned women's participation in sport as a means to social liberation: "Social slavery has left its degrading imprint on women. Our task is to free the maidenly body of its fetters, conventions and drooping posture, return to our pupils their freedom and suppleness which have been stolen from them."

Sport is an area ringed with invisible signs warning women of danger if they try to invade private male territory, as women's experience with the Olympic Games has demonstrated. From the beginning of the Olympic movement, women wanted representation in the Games. Pierre de Coubertin's vision did not include women in an athletic role, as he made clear in "Les Femmes aux Jeux Olympiques" (La revue Olympique, July 1912). In a statement which followed the resolution to include women's swimming in the 1912 Games, de Coubertin claimed that "the Olympic Games must be reserved for men." He expressed dismay at "women runners or even soccer players" who would obviously not provide "an edifying sight before crowds assembled for an Olympiad." De Coubertin defined the Olympic Games as "the solemn and peridic exaltation of male athleticism with internationalism as its base, loyalty as a means, art for its setting, and female applause as a reward."

The necessity of improving the physical strength and abilities of women was, however, in the minds of those who were striving to improve the lot of women through education. Mary Lyon, the founder of Mount Holyoke, which became the first private women's college in North America, affirmed that "the body, the temple of the soul, should not suffer from neglect." The image of the Mount Holyoke Girl, representative of the woman college student at the turn of the century, was an image of a woman involved in a variety of physical activities. Basketball, track and field, and field hockey were favorites at Mount Holyoke, and, according to A.C. Cole in A Hundred Years of Mount Holyoke College (Yale University Press, 1940), in 1898 there was added "a new requirement of out-of-door exercise...." Activities included "walking, rowing, tennis, golf, birding, grass-hopper hunting, or indeed any form of vigorous outdoor exercise." This requirement demonstrates that those in charge of the education of young women recognized the values of exercise and tried to furnish opportunities for it.

The introduction of basketball at Smith College in 1892, shortly after it had been devised by James Naismith at the YMCA training school in Springfield, Mass., serves as an example of the response of college women to physical exercise and to organized sport in particular. At Smith, basketball was played as a class exercise for a few months, and soon teams were formed for the purpose of intramural and then extramural competition. Until that point, interest groups and sporting clubs had existed in the colleges to serve recreational needs. The new interest and involvement in basketball was definitely based on a desire for competition. Class played class, school played school, and the game spread across the country. This was seen as an alarming development in some quarters, and regulations to make the game more "lady-like" were soon devised. The women, however, managed to have their Big Games complete with spectators, banners and musical cheers. The quaint institution of the musical cheer was not some sign of female sensibility but rather an invention of those in authority: yells had been banned because yelling was not lady-like.

Interest in competitive sport for women continued to grow, although directors of physical education, college presidents, and deans in women's colleges were on guard against the

"win-at-any-cost" attitude and other evils that were prominent in the unregulated men's athletics of the time.

Proponents of basketball credited it with almost miraculous powers to prepare the "new woman" for the role she would eventually play in a world in which she would have achieved both a college education and the vote. S. Berenson, the editor of Basketball for Women (American Sports Publishing Co., 1903) wrote not long after the turn of the century:

> Games are invaluable for women in that they bring out as nothing else just these elements that women find necessary today in their enlarged field of activities. Basketball is the game of all others that has proved of greatest value to them....It is impossible to pose in basketball. The game is quick, vigorous, and continuous.... Success can only be brought about by good team play....This develops traits of character which organization brings; fair play, impersonal interest, earnestness of purpose, the ability to give one's best not for one's glorification but for the good of the team--the cause.

Women today are making claims for the values of sport in their lives that are similar to claims made over seventy years ago. There is now clear evidence that sport and physical training are important to women's development. The National Council of Welfare, in Women and Poverty (1979), has recognized that stereotyping and role assignment begin in the nursery, and a number of studies have shown that women who are successful in non-traditional roles credit their "tom-boy" tendencies and the resulting sports participation, for the abilities that enabled them to succeed. As our knowledge of the socialization process increases, it becomes increasingly obvious that it is important that women and girls have the same opportunities and encouragement for athletic training, facilities, and choice of activities that men and boys enjoy. Legislation is necessary to ensure women's access to training and facilities; feminist support is needed to ensure that such facilities are used and enjoyed.

Mary Lou Squires

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ON THE READABLE SIDE: "SEX, PORN AND MALE RAGE"

Rape, wife beating, and sexual harassment are real. So is women's fear of them. The women's movement has forced these issues into the public consciousness, and is searching for solutions. Recently, many feminists have directed an attack on pornography, convinced that porn is linked to male violence. For many, the booming pornography industry is an indication that our society not only accepts sexual violence, but even enjoys it.

But what is pornography? How does it relate to men and their views of women? Does it incite men to acts of violence? Or does it provide a non-violent outlet for male fantasies of sexual domination? Are these fantasies and acts of male violence the expression of a fear of women?

These and other questions are examined in four articles on "Sex, Porn and Male Rage" in the April 1980 issue of Mother Jones magazine. In "The Politics of Porn," Deirdre English takes a critical look at the current feminist war on pornography. She maintains that exposure to porn does not turn men into rapists, and suggests that the result of

women's attack on it may actually be an increase of pornography. English calls for an increase of "non-sexist sexual images" and perhaps even women's pornography with which to confront the misogynist images of the male porn world.

Andrea Dworkin reviews the life and work of the Marquis de Sade in "Prophet of Perversion." In her account of the historical roots of sexual sadism, she asserts that "Sade pioneered what became the ethos of the male-dominated sexual revolution," and concludes that the situation remains unchanged today.

Henry Schipper provides some interesting statistics and insights on the increasingly profitable porn industry in "Filthy Lucre." Schipper's tale of his plunge into the murky world of porn includes interviews with the manufacturers, distributors, and sales and service staff of porn, as well as observations on the porn consumer.

"The End of the Ride" is Amanda Spake's chilling account of a sex crime. Spake followed the trial of Lawrence Singleton, who was convicted on seven counts of rape, sodomy, oral copulation, kidnapping, mayhem, and attempted murder. In correspondence with Singleton in prison, and in interviews with his victim, Mary Bell Vincent, and her family, Spake attempts to analyze the motives behind this crime of extreme sexual violence.

This "Sex, Porn and Male Rage" issue of Mother Jones is "must" reading for every woman who fears male violence and wants to confront her fear. It does not provide all the answers. But it does present poblems that need to be analyzed and discussed, a stepping-stone, perhaps, for greater understanding and possible solutions.

The April issue of Mother Jones is available at Multimags--where you will also find a growing section of porn books and magazines.

Helen Rezanowich

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THIS ISSUE

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A special "thanks" to all our contributors.